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MONTANA

F·I·S·H·I·N·G

REGULATIONS

1994 1995

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TO USE THESE REGULATIONS

1. Locate your district on map and turn to that section.

WESTERN DISTRICT ..... pages 6-15
CENTRAL DISTRICT .... pages 16-28
EASTERN DISTRICT .... pages 29-35

2. STANDARD REGULATIONS (those applying to most waters) are at the beginning of each district's pages.

3. SPECIAL REGULATIONS (listed alphabetically by name of water) are on pages following the standard regulations for each district. IF a body of water is not listed here, the standard regulations apply.

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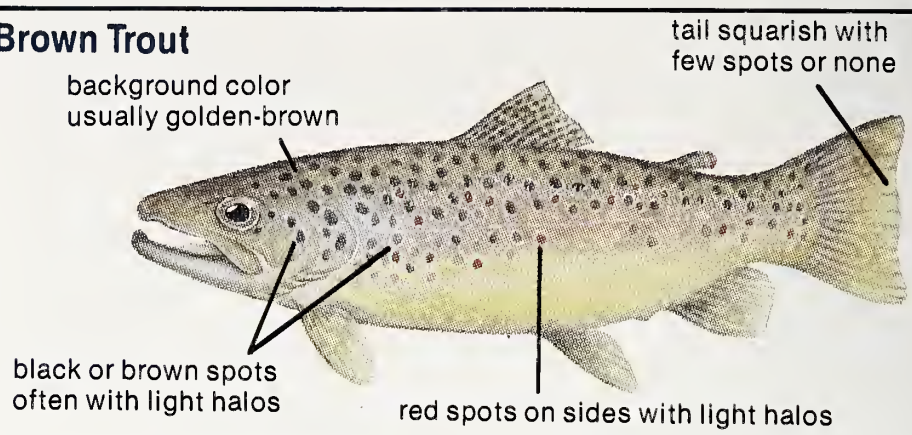
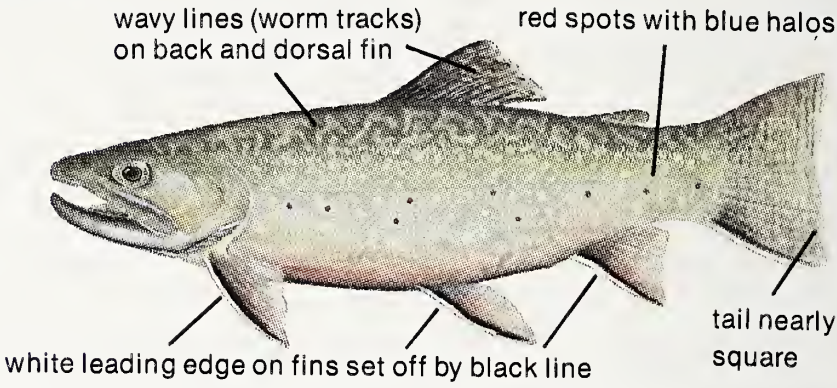
1994 - 1995

Cold Water Fish

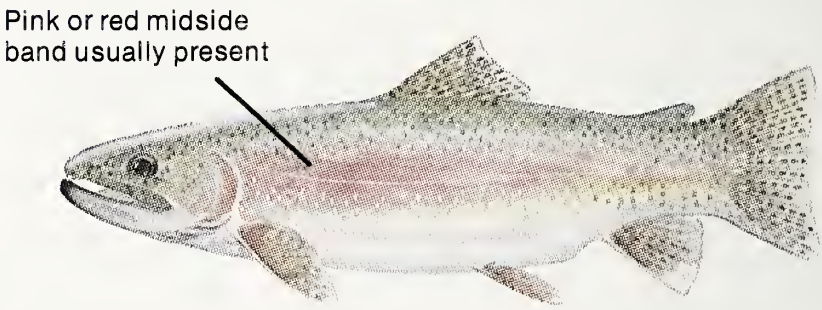
Brown Trout



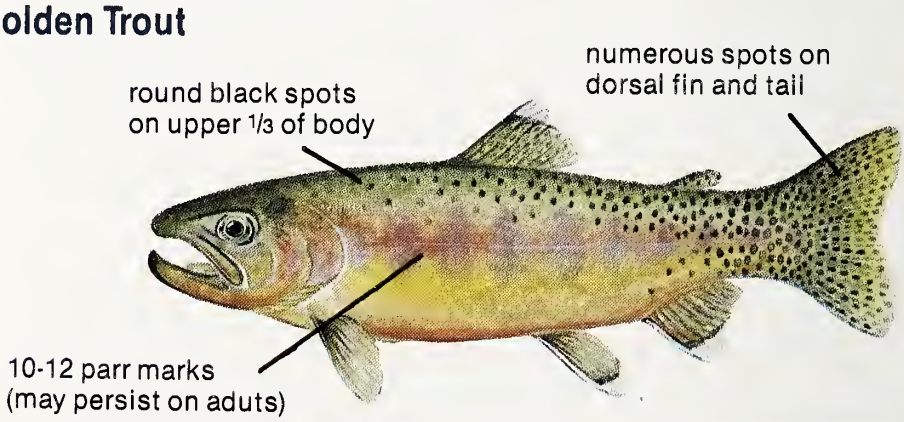
Brook Trout


wavy lines (worm tracks)
on back and dorsal fin
red spots with blue halos
tail nearly
square
white leading edge on fins set off by black line

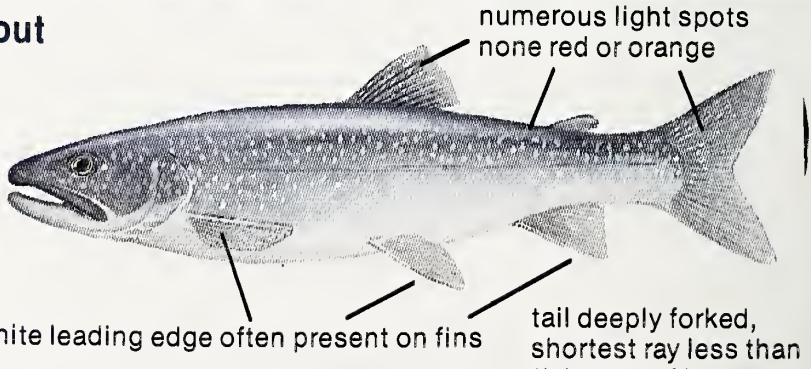
Rainbow Trout



Golden Trout



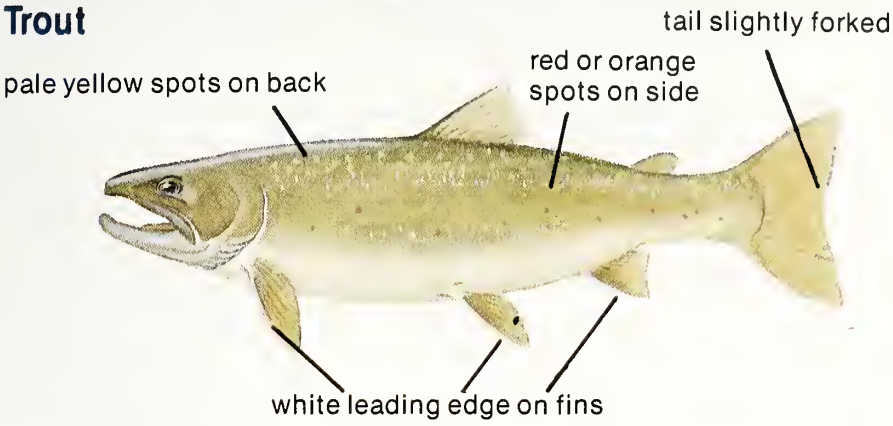
Lake Trout


numerous light spots
none red or orange
white leading edge often present on fins
tail deeply forked,
shortest ray less than
1/2 length of longest

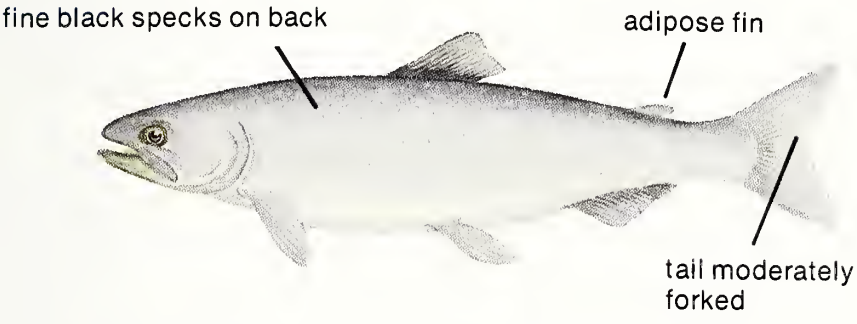
The fish illustrations displayed in these regulations were painted by Glenn West for the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks

Cold Water Fish

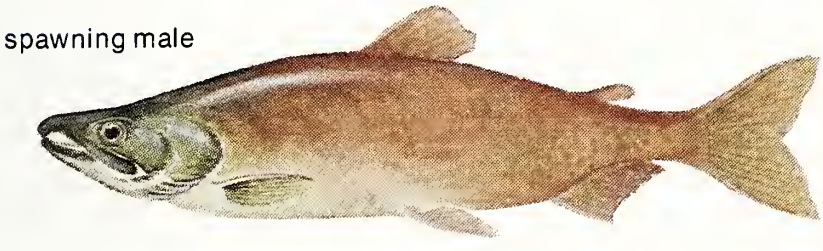
Bull Trout



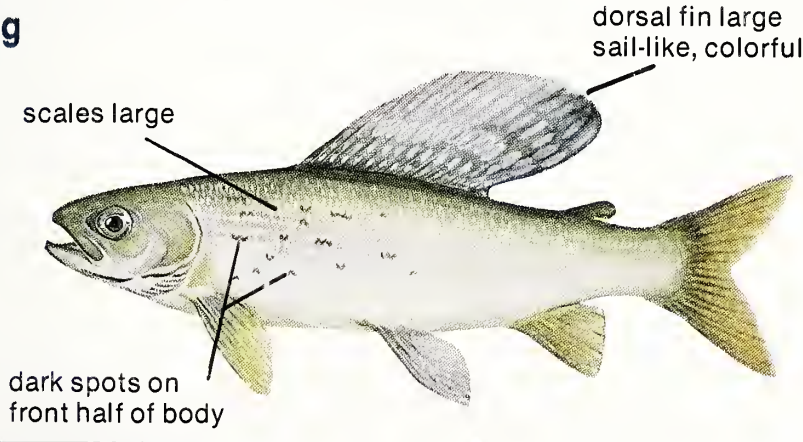
Kokanee



Kokanee



Grayling



Mountain Whitefish

CUTTHROAT TROUT

Cutthroat trout are the only members of the genus **Oncorhynchus** native to most of Montana. The number and range of both subspecies have been severely reduced over the years due to habitat destruction, competition, interbreeding with other species, and over fishing.

Cutthroat trout can grow to a fairly large size (1-3 lbs.) and provide excellent fishing in good habitat **if** they are not over harvested. Because they take a hook so readily, cutthroat can be over fished more easily than any other western trout. If you fish anywhere cutthroat are found, but particularly in streams, we ask that you check the throat area of fish you catch for red slashes. Letting those fish go should contribute to improve fishing. Enjoy the recreation these native Montanans can provide.

Westslope Cutthroat

small, irregularly shaped black spots, sparse on belly
cutthroat slash— one on each side (weak on juveniles)
spots more dense toward rear of fish

Yellowstone Cutthroat

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MONTANA 1994-1995 Fishing Regulations Addendum

By order of the Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission, the seasons, limits and regulations listed in the 1994-1995 fishing regulations and those listed herein shall govern the 1995 fishing season. These regulations are valid March 1, 1995 through February 29, 1996. These regulations were adopted by the Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission on March 29 and April 7, 1995.

WESTERN DISTRICT

All regulations governing the Western Fishing District as printed on pages 6-15 remain in effect except for the following changes:

Page 7 Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Bull trout: All waters of the Western District except Swan Lake are closed to the taking of bull trout. *(Swan River and tributaries are closed to the taking of bull trout).*

Page 12 Hungry Horse Reservoir

Closed to the taking of bull trout.

CENTRAL DISTRICT

All regulations governing the Central Fishing District as printed on pages 16-28 remain in effect except for the following changes:

Pages 23-24 Madison River

**Mouth of Squaw Creek to Windy Point Fishing Access Site—Closed to fishing entire year.

**Quake Lake outlet to McAtee Bridge—Closed to fishing March 1, 1995 to May 19, 1995.

EASTERN DISTRICT

All regulations governing the Eastern Fishing District as printed on pages 29-35 remain in effect except for the following changes:

Page 34 Yellowstone River

Experimental catch and release fishing season for all paddlefish: All paddlefish caught at the Intake Fishing Access Site on Wednesdays and Sundays, 3 PM to 9 PM *(Mountain Daylight Time)*, must be released.

Anglers fishing on these days and hours must show evidence they have purchased a 1995 paddlefish tag.

All paddlefish must be released immediately. Gaffs are prohibited.

STATEWIDE — ALL FISHING DISTRICTS

The taking and/or use of sculpins as fishing bait *(also known as "bullheads")* is prohibited on all waters in the state.

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Statewide Standard Fishing Regulations

Limits — Daily and Possession

- **Daily** limit shall mean the numbers of fish that may be legally taken during a calendar day. It is unlawful to take or possess more than the daily limit of fish unless otherwise specified under district regulations.
- **Possession** limit shall mean the number of fish which may be in one person's possession anytime in any form: fresh, stored in freezers or lockers, salted, smoked, dried, canned or otherwise preserved.
  - — Refer to district regulations for respective daily and possession limits.
  - — A person fishing on a water may possess only the limit allowed for that water.
  - — Where size limits apply and while a person is on the water and fishing, all fish in possession must be whole with head, skin, and fins attached. Only gills and entrails may be removed.
  - — Fish may be dressed and filleted before transport to a permanent residence, but the skin must remain attached to each fillet. It is unlawful to transport dressed fish to a person's residence unless those fish can be counted. If the catch is frozen prior to transportation, each fish or fillet must be packaged so it can be counted. Two fillets will be counted as one fish.
  - — It is illegal to can fish before taking them to a permanent residence. Mobile recreational vehicles, travel trailers, or tents do not qualify as permanent residences.

Seasons

All dates given are inclusive dates. Where dates specify an open season, fishing is closed throughout the remainder of the year. An open season is for all species unless otherwise specified.

Game Fish

All species of the family Salmonidae (chars, trout, salmon, grayling and whitefish); all species of the genus Stizostedion (sauger and walleye); all species of the genus Esox (northern pike and tiger muskellunge); all species of the genus Micropterus (bass); all species of the genus Polyodon (paddlefish); all species of the family Acipenseridae (sturgeon); the genus Lota (burbot or ling); and the species Ictalurus punctatus (channel catfish).

Fishing Hours

Fishing is allowed at all hours during open fishing seasons.

Fishing Methods

Hook and Line Limits

- Only a single line with up to two hooks, with or without a pole, may be used for fishing unless otherwise specified in district regulations. The pole or line must be hand-held or in immediate control.
- Where multiple lines are allowed, the total number of allowable lines includes hand-held lines, setlines, spears, or other units of fishing gear.
- Hook—A hook is a single, double, or treble point attached to a single shank. A lure with multiple hooks is still considered a single hook.
- These provisions also apply to commercial whitefish fishing as provided under district regulations.

Setlines

- Setlines may be used on some waters as specified by district regulations. Unless otherwise specified a setline must be checked by the owner at least once every 24 hours.
- The owner's name and address must be attached to each unattended setline.
- Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices.

Snagging

- Snagging of fish is unlawful at all times except paddlefish, chinook salmon, kokanee salmon and nongame fish as provided under district regulations. Where snagging is allowed, any number of hooks may be used. Snagging is a technique of angling in which a hook or hooks are cast, trolled or lowered into the water and manipulated to imbed the hook or hooks into the body of the fish. All game fish not legal for snagging that are incidentally snagged must be released immediately.

Nets and Traps

- Landing nets may be used for landing hooked fish.
- A screen or a net not to exceed four (4) feet in length or width may be used to take sculpins (genus Cottus) for bait statewide.
- In Central and Eastern District waters where use of live fish is allowed for bait, nongame species (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be taken in the following manner:
  with seines not to exceed twelve (12) feet in length and four (4) feet in width, **or**
  with minnow traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.
- Crayfish for personal consumption may be taken in traps not to exceed eighteen (18) inches in length and ten (10) inches in diameter.
- Hoop nets may be used in Eastern Fishing District only. See page 30.

Artificial Lures

- Artificial lures shall include any lure (including flies) that is man-made in imitation of or as a substitute for natural bait. Artificial lures do not include fish eggs or other chemically treated or processed natural baits or any natural or man-made food, or any man-made lures that have been treated with a natural or artificial fish attractant or feeding stimulant.

Minnows and Other Bait

Live Fish

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by a permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- Sculpins (genus Cottus) may be used live for bait statewide, except in waters limited to artificial lures and in the Madison River between Varney Bridge and Ennis Lake.
- Live carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt may not be used for bait at any location in the state.
- Live fish other than sculpins may not be used for bait except as provided under Bait (Live) as listed in the Central (page 18) and Eastern (page 31) District regulations.
- Persons fishing in waters closed to the use of live fish for bait may not have live bait fish in their immediate possession. Nongame species may be taken for bait only in waters where live fish are allowed as bait (see Fishing Methods, pages 3-4).

Dead Fish

Any fish, or parts thereof, may be used dead as bait if they have their heads and entrails removed, or if they have been preserved or frozen, except in waters limited to artificial lures only.

Commercial Bait Fish Seining and Sale of Bait Fish

- Nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullhead (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt) may be harvested for commercial purposes in accordance with ARM

Continued...

Commercial Bait Fish Seining, Continued...

Section 12.7.201.-12.7.206. Any individual taking nongame fish for sale or commercial distribution must possess a commercial bait fish seining license. Contact your regional Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for a permit and list of waters open to commercial seining.

- Live bait fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana for commercial or other purposes.
- Commercial bait regulations are not valid on Indian reservation waters—for information contact local tribal officials.

Commercial Aquatic Invertebrate Collections

Persons wishing to collect aquatic invertebrates such as leeches, crayfish, and aquatic insects for sale or commercial distribution should contact their regional Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for information. Also see Crayfish and Mussels.

Irrigation Canals and Ditches

Man made irrigation canals and ditches are open year around unless shown otherwise under district regulations. District standard daily and possession limits for rivers and streams apply to irrigation canals and ditches.

Beaver Ponds

Impoundments formed by beaver dams on streams are governed by the same regulations that govern the streams.

Closed Waters

All waters operated by the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service as fish hatcheries and rearing ponds shall be closed to fishing at all times. Water in which the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks is operating fish traps and other special structures shall be closed to fishing as posted. Certain water-supply lakes, streams, and hazardous areas are closed as posted.

Children's Fishing Waters

Waters posted as Children's Fishing Waters are closed to fishing during the entire year to persons 12 years of age and older. Children's Fishing Waters are:

- Fairground Pond; Helena
- Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)

It is Unlawful

It is unlawful and a misdemeanor

- To violate any of the regulations listed in this booklet.
- To transport or introduce any fish or viable fish eggs into any waters.
- To refuse to show one's license upon demand.
- To refuse to show one's fish upon demand.
- To loan or transfer your fishing or hunting license or tags to any person.
- To sell game fish except as prescribed by Montana Fish, Wildlife and Parks Commission regulations.
- To leave or dump any dead animal, fish, garbage or litter in or on any state or private property where public recreation is permitted.
- To use any carbide, lime, giant powder, dynamite, or other explosive compounds, or any corrosive or narcotic poison or to have any of the same in one's possession within one hundred (100) feet of any stream where fish are found, for the purpose of stunning or killing fish.
- To hire or retain an unlicensed outfitter or guide.
- To waste any part of game fish suitable for food.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT

Western Fishing District includes all waters in Montana West of the Continental Divide.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Kalispell	752-5501
Missoula	542-5500
TDD	444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)	

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes—Open entire year. Valid fishing license required.

Rivers and Streams—Open third Saturday in May through November 30. Some streams have extended whitefish and catch-and-release fishing for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May. See Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

ice Fishing—All lakes and reservoirs in the Western District are open to use of two (2) attended lines with two (2) hooks per line when fishing through the ice. Valid fishing license required.

Bow and Arrow—All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.

Snagging—All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. Snagging of salmon is allowed in waters open to fishing from September 15 through December except as noted under Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

Spearing—Persons swimming or submerged may take non-game fish by spearing in most waters open to fishing (note Special Regulations). Valid fishing license required.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits. However, anglers may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — in Any Combination			
Brown trout, Cutthroat trout, Golden trout, Lake trout, Rainbow trout	5	10	Rivers & Streams: only 1 fish may exceed 14 inches
Grayling			Grayling taken in rivers and streams must be released.

Wilderness Limits:
All waters in the South Fork Flathead River drainage from Hungry Horse Dam to the wilderness boundary and all waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear, and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas unless otherwise specified under exceptions.

Limit A—In any Combination			
Cutthroat trout, Rainbow trout	3	3	Rivers & Streams: No fish may exceed 12 inches

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Bull trout	All waters of the Western District except Swan Lake and Hungry Horse Reservoir are closed to the taking of bull trout. (Swan River and tributaries and South Fork Flathead River and tributaries, are closed to the taking of bull trout.)		
Brook trout	20	20	
Bass	5	5	
Northern Pike	15	15	
Salmon	20	20	Possession limit is 40
Whitefish	100	100	Including fish taken for sale
Burbot (ling)	5	5	

It is unlawful to take or possess any sturgeon of the genus Acipenser (White Sturgeon).

Bait

- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish except sculpins (Cottus) in any waters of the Western Fishing District.
- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

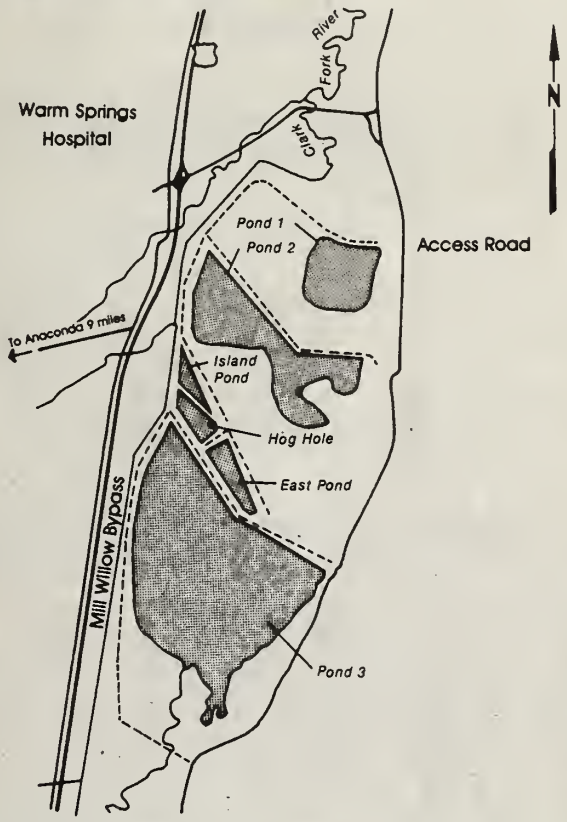
The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 37. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

WESTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Abbot Lake near Bigfork
- Closed to spearing.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.

Anaconda Settling Pond System



- All waters in the Wildlife Management Area upstream from Warm Springs Bridge
  — catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Hog Hole open May 25 through June 30.
- Pond 3 open May 25 through September 30 to fishing from floating non-motorized craft and from north and west dikes except where posted closed.
- All ponds and canals open August 15 through September 30.
- Willow Creek from Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area boundary
  — catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Ashley Creek downstream from Smith Lake
- Open entire year.

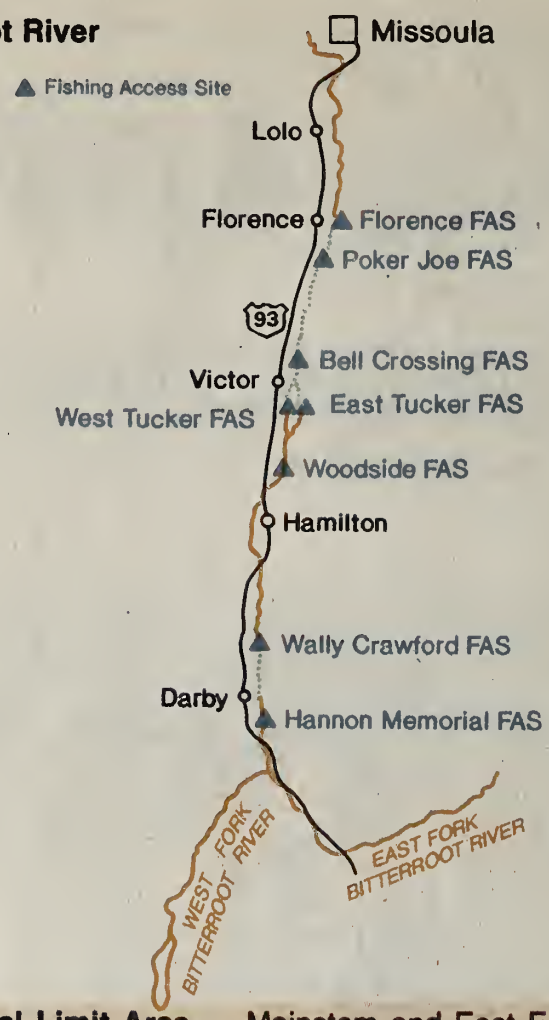
Ashley Creek from Thompson Falls public water supply intake to source
- Closed entire year.

Ashley Lake
- Limit: 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Ashley Lake Inlet Tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Basin Creek from lower Butte water supply reservoir dam to source, including all reservoirs and tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Big Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and all tributaries
- Closed entire year.



~ **Special Limit Area** — Mainstem and East Fork to mouth of Martin Creek and West Fork upstream to Painted Rocks Reservoir.
- Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Three (3) rainbow or brown trout alone or in combination. Only one may exceed 14 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots and/or artificial lures only.

... **Special Limit Area** — From Tucker Crossing to Florence Bridge and one mile downstream from Darby to Como Bridge.
- Catch-and-release only for trout entire year.
- Artificial lures only except aquatic insects and maggots may also be used to catch whitefish from December 1 through the third Saturday in May.

Bitterroot Valley between U.S. 93 and the East Side Highway between Hamilton and Buckhouse Bridge (ditches, canals and sloughs)
- Extended northern pike and whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blackfoot River
- Mainstem and all tributaries (except Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier).
  — Limit A: Rainbow and brown trout, three (3) fish, none of which may exceed 12 inches. Cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Blanchard Lake near Whitefish
- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice and by persons submerged in the water.

Blue Sky Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Bootjack Lake (near Whitefish, T31N, R23W, S26)
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, minimum size limit 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Brenneman Slough
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.

Cedar Creek Impoundment (Columbia Falls water supply)
- Closed entire year.

Church Slough (Flathead River)
- Open year around.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum.
- Closed to spearing.

Clarence Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Clark Fork River
- Anaconda Company Settling No. 2 Pond spillway to Perkins Lane Bridge
  — Limit A: Five (5) trout under 12 inches or 4 trout under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches, artificial lures only.
- Milltown Dam to mouth of Thompson River
  — Limit A: Five (5) trout, only one of which may exceed 16 inches.
- Anaconda Company Settling Pond No. 2 spillway (near Warm Springs) to mouth of Thompson River
  — Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Mouth of Flathead River to mouth of Thompson River
  — Open entire year for northern pike with bait or lures.
- Mouth of Thompson River to Idaho Border
  — Open entire year. Lake limits apply to entire reach.

Clearwater Drainage
- Upstream from Lake Inez fish barrier and all tributaries of the Clearwater River
  — Limit A: Rainbow and brown trout, 3 fish, none of which may exceed 12 inches. Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.
- Downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier
  — Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and 20 in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.

Clearwater River downstream from Lake Inez fish barrier
- Open entire year.

Coal Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Donaldson Creek Drainage, tributary of Lake Mary Ronan
- Closed entire year.

Echo Lake near Anaconda
- Open third Saturday in May through March 31.
- Limit: Five (5) trout (including brook trout).

Echo Lake near Bigfork
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum.
- Closed to spearing, except open to spearing and gigging of nongame fish and northern pike through ice.

Elk Creek, tributary to Swan River
- Closed entire year.

Emily Springs, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit for all trout, including brook trout, is 5.

Fennon Slough (Flathead River)
- Open year around.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one may exceed 12 inches.

Fisher River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.

Flathead Drainage (including all lakes and streams in the Flathead, Stillwater, Swan and Whitefish drainages)
- Limit: Ten (10) lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and one over 36 inches may be kept in addition to other species in limit A.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Flathead Lake
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Five (5) bass, only 2 over 15 inches and all bass from 12 inches to 15 inches must be released.
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout or 1 of each, only one over 14 inches, and 10 lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and one over 36 inches.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.
- Limit: 50 yellow perch.
- Hatchery Bay of Flathead Lake at Somers
  — Closed as posted from October 1 until spawn taking is complete.

Flathead River
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or rainbow trout or 1 of each, only one over 14 inches, and 10 lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and one over 36 inches.
  — Limit: 50 lake whitefish.
- From confluence of North and Middle Forks to mouth
  — Extended season for whitefish and lake trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only. All other species of trout must be released.
- Above Kerr Dam
  — Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Flathead Reservation boundary to mouth
  — Open entire year.
  — Limit: Five (5) northern pike daily and in possession, minimum length 24 inches.

Flathead Indian Reservation
- Tribal fishing permit is necessary on Reservation waters.
- Check at Tribal Headquarters for specific information and regulations.

Flint Creek
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Flower Creek and its artificial impoundments from Power Dam to its source, excluding natural lakes
- Closed entire year.

Fred Burr Lake (Philipsburg water supply, Granite County)
- Closed entire year.

Freeland Creek Drainage, tributary to Lake Mary Ronan
- Closed entire year.

Georgetown Lake
- Lake open third Saturday in May through March 31 except:
  — The south and east shoreline is closed to fishing from the shore or within 100 yards of the shore from April 1 to July 1. The closed area extends from a point 200 yards west of the Denton's Point Marina, easterly and northerly along the shore including Stuart Mill Bay in its entirety, to a point 200 yards north of the mouth of the North Fork Flint Creek.
  — Tributaries to Georgetown Lake (North Fork Flint Creek, Stuart Mill Creek, Hardtla Creek and Emily Springs) open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit for all trout, including brook trout, is 5.
- No daily or possession limit for salmon.
- Closed to snagging.
- It is illegal to use or capture live bait fish except sculpins (Cottus).

Goat Creek (Swan River tributary)
- Closed entire year.

Granite Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Hardtla Creek, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Limit for all trout, including brook trout, is 5.

Haskill Creek and tributaries from Whitefish public water intake to its source
- Closed entire year

Herrig Creek, tributary to Little Bitterroot Lake
- Closed entire year.

Horseshoe Lake near Ferndale
- Closed to spearing.
- Five (5) bass under 12 inches or four bass under 12 inches and one over 16 inches.

Hungry Horse Reservoir
- Wilderness Limits apply; See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 7.
- The daily and possession limit for bull trout is one fish. An angler must either release or kill immediately all bull trout caught. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout.

Hungry Horse Reservoir Tributaries
- Wilderness Limits apply; See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 7.

Job Corps Ponds (E 1/2 of S7, T5N, R9W Deer Lodge County)
- All ponds open August 15 through September 30.
- Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Keeler Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Kootenai River (also see Libby Dam)
- Open entire year, except Libby Dam to Highway 37 Bridge (Fisher River) is closed to fishing March 15 to third Saturday in May.
- Libby Dam to Kootenai Falls
  — Three (3) trout under 13 inches and one over 18 inches

Lake Alva
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Blaine near Kalispell
- Closed to spearing.

Lake Inez
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession.

Lake Koocanusa
- Closed to burbot (ling) fishing January 15 through February 28.

Lake Mary Ronan
- Open third Saturday in May through February 28.
- May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Closed to salmon snagging.
- Closed to spearing.

Libby Creek
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Libby Dam (also see Kootenai River)
- Fishing from boats or other floating craft is prohibited in Kootenai River from Libby Dam approximately 500 yards downstream to David Thompson Bridge as posted.
- Structure as posted and the buoyed area immediately upstream from spillway
  — Closed entire year.

Lion Creek tributary to Swan River
- Closed entire year.

Little Bitterroot Lake
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout, only 1 over 22 inches.

Little Blackfoot River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Lodgepole Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Long Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Loon Lake (Highway 2 West)
- Closed to spearing.

Loon Lake near Ferndale
- Closed to spearing.

Lower Stillwater Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches in addition to other species in Limit A.
- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Lower Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.
- Closed to spearing.

Medicine Lake near Philipsburg
- Open July 1 through April.

Medicine Lake Tributaries
- Open July 1 through November 30.

Metcalf Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, size must exceed 22 inches, artificial lures only.

Middle Fork Flathead Drainage (All streams within the wilderness)
- Wilderness Limits apply; See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 7.

Middle Fork Flathead River (non-wilderness portion)
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout or one of each, only one over 14 inches, and 10 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.

Middle Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout, only 1 over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30;' one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.
- Closed to spearing.

Morrison Creek (Middle Fork Flathead River tributary) and its tributaries
- Closed entire year.

Murphy Lake near Fortine
- Closed to spearing.

No Tellum Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: Three (3) trout under 12 inches; one over 22 inches, artificial lures only.

North Fork Flathead River
- Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or 2 rainbow trout or one of each, only one over 14 inches, and 10 lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures.

North Fork Flint Creek, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Daily limit for all trout, including brook trout, is 5.

Noxon Rapids Reservoir
- May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.

O'Brien Creek from Troy city water intake to a point one-fourth mile upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Peterson Lake near Bigfork
- Closed to spearing.
- Limit: Five (5) bass daily and in possession, only one of which may exceed 12 inches. May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.

Placid Creek, tributary to Placid Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Placid Lake and tributaries
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Quartz Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Rattlesnake Creek
- Upstream from mouth of Beeskove Creek
  — Open entire year. Catch-and-release with artificial lures only.
- Rattlesnake Creek and tributaries from Missoula water supply dam of Mountain Water Company to mouth of Beeskove Creek.
  — Closed entire year.

Rock Creek from its mouth to mouth of West Fork Rock Creek
- Artificial lures only except anglers 14 years and younger may use bait.
- Limit A: Three (3) trout per day under 12 inches or 2 trout under 12 inches and 1 over 20 inches.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.
- Closed to fishing from boats July 1 through November 30.

Rogers Lake spawning inlet
- Closed entire year.

Salmon Lake and tributaries
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

Seeley Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and in possession. Open for snagging of salmon September 15 through December 31 when 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession are allowed.

South Fork Flathead Drainage (all waters upstream from Hungry Horse Dam including Hungry Horse Reservoir)
- Wilderness Limits apply; See Wilderness Limits — Limit A, page 7.

South Fork Flathead River
- Closed entire year to taking of salmon.
- Upstream from Hungry Horse Dam
  — Wilderness Limits apply; See Wilderness Limits—Limit A, page 7.
  — From Meadow Creek bridge to Spotted Bear footbridge
    — Artificial lures only.
    — Limit A: cutthroat trout, catch-and-release only.
- Downstream from Hungry Horse Dam
  — Dam to "Devils Elbow" closed entire year as posted.
  — Limit A: Two (2) cutthroat or rainbow trout or 1 of each, only 1 over 14 inches, and 10 lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches.

Squeezer Creek (Swan River tributary)
- Closed entire year.

Stahl Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Stillwater River from mouth of Sunday Creek to lower Stillwater Lake
- Open entire year.
- Stillwater River and all tributaries
  — Ten (10) lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches may be kept in addition to other species in Limit A.
  — Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Stuart Mill Creek, tributary to Georgetown Lake
- Open July 1 through November 30.
- Daily limit for all trout, including brook trout, is 5.

Swan Lake
- Limit: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.
- Closed to spearing.
- The daily and possession limit for bull trout is one (1) fish. An angler must either release or kill immediately, all bull trout caught. It is unlawful to possess a live bull trout.

Swan River
- Piper Creek Bridge downstream to Swan Lake
  — Limit A: Catch-and-release for rainbow and cutthroat trout, artificial lures only.
- From Swan Lake to Flathead Lake
  — Open entire year.
  — Flathead Lake limits and seasons apply.

Tally Lake
- Limit: 50 salmon daily and 100 in possession.

Thompson River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Tobacco River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Trail Creek (Yakinikak) and its tributaries downstream from mouth of Thoma Creek
- Closed entire year.

Upper Stillwater Lake
- Limit: Ten (10) lake trout under 30 inches, or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches in addition to other species in Limit A.
- Open to spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Upper Thompson Lake
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout, only one over 22 inches.
- May 15 through June 30; one bass daily and in possession, 22 inches minimum length.
- Closed to spearing.

Upsata Lake
- Catch-and-release only for bass.

West Fork Quartz Creek (Kootenai Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in May through July 15.

Whale Creek (North Fork Flathead tributary) and its tributaries downstream from Whale Creek Falls
- Closed entire year.

Whitefish Lake
- Closed entire year to snagging of salmon. Limit: Ten (10) salmon daily and 20 in possession.
- Ten (10) lake trout under 30 inches or 9 lake trout under 30 inches and 1 over 36 inches may be kept in addition to other species in Limit A.
- Limit: 50 lake whitefish.

Whitefish River from Whitefish Lake to Montana State Highway 40 bridge
- Open entire year.

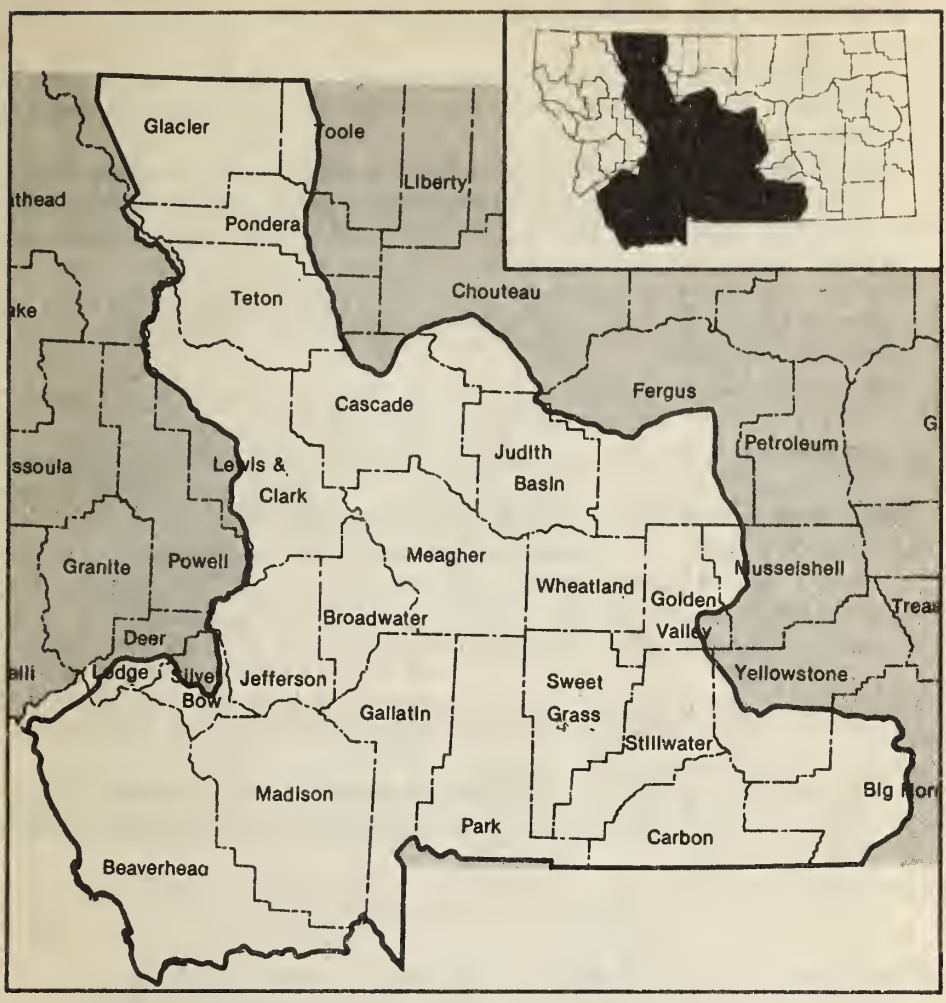
Wigwam River (Kootenai Drainage)
- Catch-and-release only for all trout, artificial lures only.

Wildlife Management Ponds
- See "Job Corps Ponds"

Willow Creek (near Anaconda Settling Ponds)
- From Stewart Street Bridge to Wildlife Management Area
  — catch-and-release only; artificial lures only.

Woods Lake
- Open April 1 through November 30.
- Limit A: One (1) trout daily and in possession, size must exceed 22 inches, artificial lures only.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT



Central Fishing District includes all waters in Montana lying East of the Continental Divide, (including the Belly and St Marys Drainages) and waters lying West of the following described boundary:

Interstate 15 from the Montana-Canadian border south to Northwest Bypass Junction near Great Falls, then east on said Bypass to Smelter Avenue, then east on Smelter Avenue to 15th Street, then south on said street to north bank of Missouri River, then east along high water mark of the Missouri River to Black Eagle Dam, then across said dam and following high water mark along the south bank of the Missouri River, then easterly to State Route 80 at Fort Benton; then southeasterly along State Route 80 to its junction with State Route 81, then easterly on State Route 81 to its junction with U.S. Highway 191, then northeasterly along U.S. Highway 191 to its junction with State Route 19, then south on State Route 19 to its junction with U.S. Highway 87, then south on U.S. Highway 87 to its junction with U.S. Highway 12, then west on U.S. Highway 12 to its junction with State Route 3, then south on State Route 3 to its junction with Interstate 90, then easterly and southerly on Interstate 90 to the first crossing of the Little Bighorn River, then southerly along the west bank of the Little Bighorn River to the Montana-Wyoming border.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Great Falls 454-3441
Bozeman 994-4042
Billings 252-4654
TDD 444-1200
(Telephone device for the deaf)

Standard Fishing Seasons

Lakes—Open entire year.
Rivers and Streams—Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
Setlines—Anglers may use setlines in those waters open to setline fishing as specified under Special Regulations. Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address. Valid fishing license required.
Bow and Arrow—All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.
Snagging—All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish. Valid fishing license required.
Spearing—Persons swimming or submerged may take non-game fish by spearing in most waters open to fishing (note District Special Regulations). Valid fishing license required.
Ice Fishing—All lakes-reservoirs in the Central District are open to use of two attended lines with two hooks per line when fishing through the ice. More than two lines are permitted on some waters—see Special Regulations.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits. However, anglers may possess only the limit of fish allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — in Any Combination			
Brown trout Cutthroat trout Golden trout Lake trout Rainbow trout	5	10	Rivers & Streams: only 1 fish may exceed 18 inches
Grayling			Grayling taken in rivers and streams must be released.

Wilderness Limits:
All waters within the boundaries of the Bob Marshall, Great Bear and Scapegoat Wilderness Areas unless otherwise specified under exceptions.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A—In any Combination			
Cutthroat trout Rainbow trout	3	3	Rivers & Streams: No fish may exceed 12 inches.
Grayling	Catch-and-Release Only		

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Brook trout	20	20	
Bass	5	5	
Burbot (ling)	10	10	
Catfish	20	20	
Sauger/Walleye	5	5	In any combination
Northern Pike	10	10	
Tiger Muskellunge	1	1	30 inch minimum size
Salmon	10	10	
Shovelnose Sturgeon	5	5	
Whitefish	100	100	Including fish taken for sale

The maximum weight sturgeon (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 16 pounds. It is unlawful to take or possess a Pallid Sturgeon (Scaphirhynchus albus) of any size.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- Sculpins (genus Cottus) may be used for live bait in all waters of the Central District except in waters limited to artificial lures and the Madison River between Varney Bridge and Ennis Lake.
- Live nongame fish [except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch and rainbow smelt] may be used for bait only in the following waters:
  - — Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir.
  - — Bighorn River—Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area.
  - — Clarks Fork Yellowstone River—downstream from bridge at Bridger.
  - — Marias River.
  - — Muddy Creek Drainage near Vaughn including all streams and drainage canals.
  - — Streams and ditches in the Yellowstone River Drainage downstream of the mouth of the Clarks Fork (except for a section of the Bighorn River).

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 37. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

CENTRAL FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Alder Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Alder Gulch Creek and dredge ponds mouth to Virginia City
- Open entire year.

Antelope Butte Lake (see Ostle Reservoir)

Armstrong Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Artificial flies and lures only.
- Catch-and-release only.

Arod Lakes (see Eyraud Lakes)

Axolotl Lakes
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.
- Catch-and-release only for grayling.

Badger Creek Drainage near Heart Butte, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches; all cutthroat trout must be released.

Beaver Creek (Canyon Ferry tributary)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Beaver Creek Ponds (R3E, T11S, S21—Madison River Drainage). All ponds north and south of Highway 287 adjacent to Beaver Creek
- Open July 1 through November 30
- Catch-and-release only, artificial lures only.

Beaverhead River
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only 1 over 18 inches and only 1 rainbow trout.
- Clark Canyon Dam to Pipe Organ Bridge
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Downstream from Pipe Organ Bridge
  - — Open entire year.

Belt Creek below bridge at Riceville
- Open entire year.

Big Hole River

Special Regulations — Seasons

- Tributaries (only) upstream of Divide Dam open entire year for brook trout.
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release for trout from December 1 to the third Saturday in May with maggots and/or artificial lures only, except Divide Dam to Melrose Bridge is closed to all fishing December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Special Limits

- Dickie Bridge (Highway 43 crossing west of Wise River in T1N, R12W, S11) to Melrose Bridge:
  — Limit A: Four (4) trout limit, 3 fish under 13 inches and 1 over 22 inches, artificial lures only.
- Entire river and tributaries, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Big Lake Creek (Big Hole Drainage)

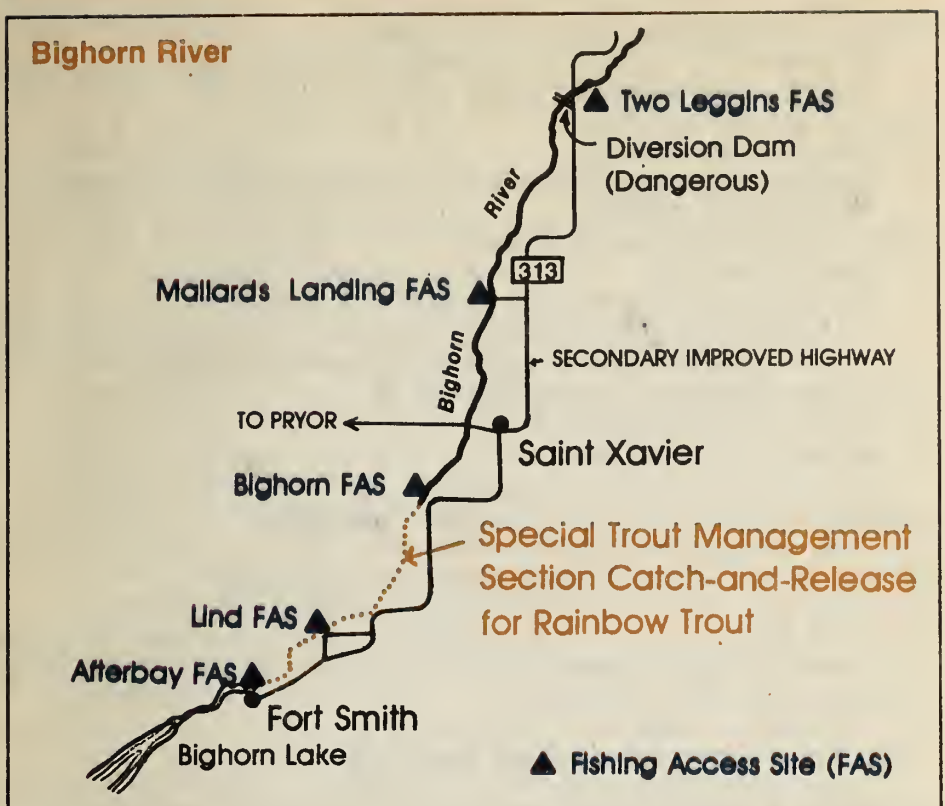
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Big Spring Creek (Lewistown)

- Open entire year.

Bighorn Lake and Afterbay Reservoir

- Limit: Six (6) walleye, sauger and bass in any combination.
- Catfish limit is 6.
- Up to six (6) attended lines, with one (1) hook per line allowed through the ice only.



Exceptions
- Afterbay Dam to cable 600 feet downstream and below Bighorn Access Area
  — Open entire year.
  — Limit A: Five (5) trout only 1 of which may be over 18 inches and only one (1) of which may be a rainbow trout.
- Cable 600 feet below Afterbay Dam to Bighorn Access Area
  — Open entire year.
  — Artificial lures only.
  — Limit A: Five (5) trout only 1 of which may be over 18 inches. Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.

Black Sands Spring Creek (tributary to South Fork Madison River)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Bluewater Creek
- Open entire year.

Boulder River near Big Timber
- Entire drainage (including tributaries)
  — Open entire year.
- Limit A: Two (2) trout, only one may be over 13 inches.
- Natural Bridge to 2 Mile Bridge
  — Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout, artificial lures only.

Boulder River near Cardwell, mouth to bridge four airline miles upstream in T2N R3W S24
- Open third Saturday in May through September 30.

Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Brimstone Creek (tributary to Hidden Lake, Madison Drainage)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Buffalo Creek (Fork of Slough Creek)
- Limit: Three (3) trout, none over 12 inches.

Bull Creek (Big Hole Drainage near Jackson)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Bynum Reservoir
- Open entire year to fishing with up to two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line, except that six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.

Canyon Ferry Dam Structure
- Closed as posted.

Canyon Ferry Reservoir
- Setline fishing allowed through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Continued on Page 21...

Canyon Ferry Reservoir, Continued...
- Tributaries to Canyon Ferry Reservoir (Confederate and Beaver Creeks) open June 15 through September 30.

Clark Canyon Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.
- Springs entering reservoir at South end, near Red Rock River — Closed as posted.

Clarks Fork Yellowstone River
- Open entire year.
- Downstream from bridge at Bridger
  — Setline fishing allowed entire year with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.

Cliff Lake (Madison River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Confederate Gulch Creek
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Cougar Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Culver Pond (Widow's Pool, Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only.
- Limit: Four (4) brook trout under 12 inches and 1 over 18 inches.

Cut Bank Creek downstream of Blackfeet Indian Reservation boundary in T33N, R6W, S2
- Open entire year.

Daily Lake (Yellowstone River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Darlington Ditch (Darlington Spring Creek) on Cobblestone Fishing Access Site (near Three Forks)
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release for trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Deadman's Basin Reservoir
- Salmon snagging allowed through ice only. The snagging limit is 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.

Dearborn River downstream from Highway 434 Bridge
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and-release only for trout from December 1 to third Saturday in May.

Deep Creek near Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Deep Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Dickens Lake (Sun River Game Range)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Diversion Lake (Sun River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Dry Creek (Upper Missouri River tributary)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Duck Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

East Fork Hyalite Creek
- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

East Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

East Gallatin River downstream from the mouth of Bozeman (Sourdough) Creek
- Open entire year.

Elk Lake (Beaverhead County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, only two of which may be lake trout.

Eyraud (Arod) Lakes
- Open entire year to fishing with up to two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through the ice.
- Spearing or gigging northern pike and nongame fish open through the ice only.

Fairground Pond, Helena
- Children's fishing water, see page 5.

Ferguson Lake (T1N, R12W, S31, Big Hole River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Foolhen Lake (T1N, R12W, S29, Big Hole River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Gallatin River
- Open entire year.
- Yellowstone National Park to East Gallatin River — Closed to fishing from boats.

Gibson Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, catch-and-release only for grayling.

Goose Lake (Madison County)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Governor Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Grayling Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir, Madison County
- Limit: Five (5) trout, only one over 18 inches.
- Willow Creek arm, as posted — Open third Saturday in May through February.
- Tributaries to Harrison (Willow Creek) Reservoir (North and South Willow Creeks, near Harrison from Highway 287 Bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir). Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Hauser Dam structure and adjacent water as posted
- Closed entire year.

Hauser Lake (includes Canyon Ferry tailwater)
- Limit: Ten (10) trout and salmon in any combination.
- Five (5) walleye, only one of which may exceed 20 inches.
- Setline fishing allowed through the ice only, with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Haypress Lakes (Madison County)
- Lower Lake — Limit A: Three (3) trout.
- Middle Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.
- Upper Lake — Catch-and-release, artificial lures only.

Hebgen Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.
- Tributaries to Hebgen Reservoir (Cougar, Duck, Grayling, Red Canyon, Rumbaugh, South Fork Madison, Trapper and Watkins Creeks) open June 15 through November 30.

Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir
- Open for salmon snagging September 1 through October 31 when the limit shall be 35 salmon daily and 70 in possession.
- Open to setline fishing through the ice only with up to three (3) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Hidden Lake (Madison County)
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Hidden Lake (Our Lake, Teton County)
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

Holter Reservoir
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout and salmon in any combination except all brown trout must be released.
- Walleye: Three (3) under 18 inches and 1 over 24 inches. All walleye between 18 and 24 inches must be released.
- All waters between American Bar Gulch (located approximately 4.6 miles downstream from Hauser Dam - T12N, R3W, S11) and Holter Dam are considered Holter Reservoir (lake) for the purposes of fishing regulations.
- Setline fishing through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Howell Creek (Big Hole Drainage near Wisdom)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Hyalite Creek
- See Middle Creek, East Fork Hyalite Creek, and West Fork Hyalite Creek.

Hyalite Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) fish, only one of which may be a grayling.
- Tributaries to Hyalite Reservoir (East Fork Hyalite Creek and West Fork Hyalite Creek) open third Saturday in July through November 30.

Indian Creek, near Sheridan from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Intake Reservoir, Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply
- Closed entire year.

Jacobson Creek
- Limit A: Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.
- Artificial lures only.

Jefferson River
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Five (5) brown trout with only 1 over 18 inches.
- Catch-and-release only for rainbow trout.

Klyo Lake (Pondera County)
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

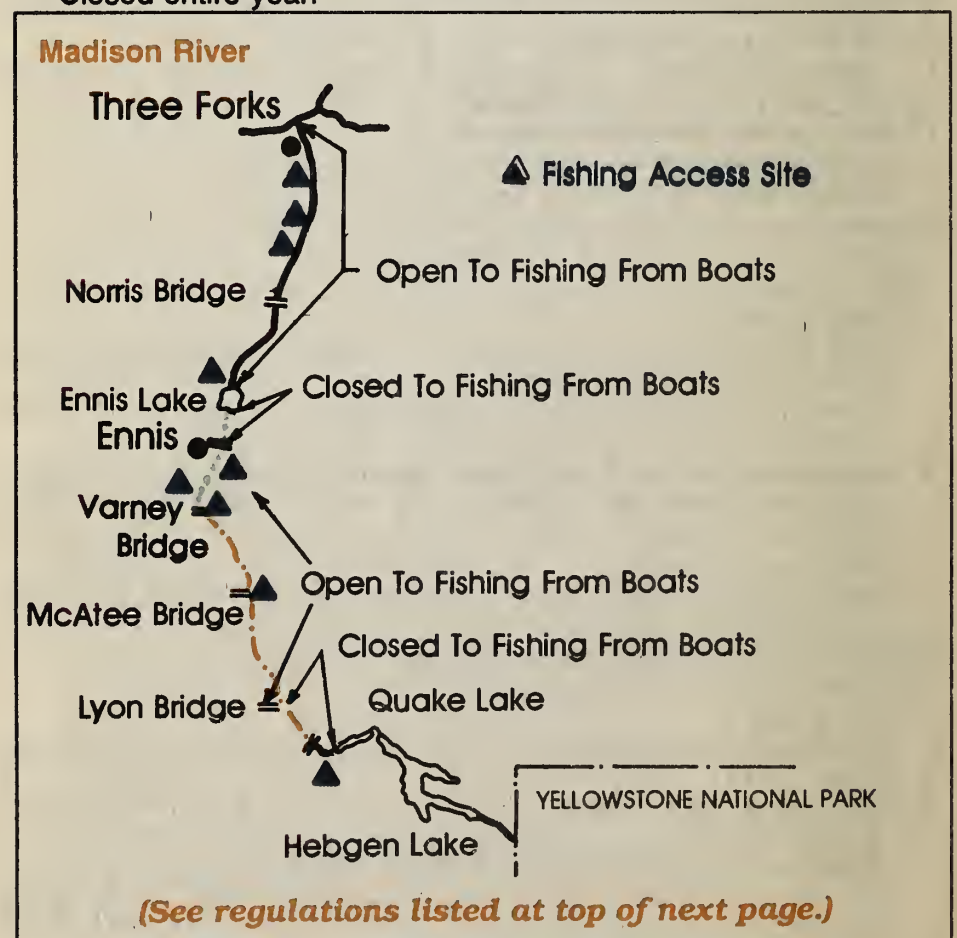
Lake Francis
- Around water supply outlet as posted.
  — Closed entire year.
- Except portion closed as posted
  — Open entire year to fishing with up to two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line, except that six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
  — Spearing or gigging northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish open through the ice only.

Lake Helena
- Open to setline fishing through the ice only with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to two (2) hooks per line.

Lightning Creek (Absaroka Beartooth Wilderness)
- Open August 1 through November 30.

Little Prickly Pear Creek (downstream from Interstate Bridge near Sieben, T13N, R4W, S4)
- Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.
- Upstream from the Interstate Bridge
  — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Lyman Creek, near Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted.
- Closed entire year.



(See regulations listed at top of next page.)

Madison River — Seasons and Limits
- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Hebgen Lake
  — Open Saturday of Memorial Day weekend through November 30. Standard Limits apply.
- Hebgen Lake to Quake Lake
  — Open entire year.
  — Standard limits apply.
- Quake Lake outlet to Varney Bridge
  — Open entire year.
  — Artificial lures only.
  — Catch-and-release for trout.
- Varney Bridge to Ennis Lake
  — Open third Saturday in May through February.
  — Sculpins not allowed for bait.
  — Limit A: Five (5) brown trout per day, only 1 of which my exceed 18 inches, all rainbow trout must be released.
- Ennis Dam to the mouth
  — Open entire year.
  — Standard Limits apply.

Boating Restrictions
- Quake Lake Outlet to Lyon Bridge
  — Closed to fishing from boats.
- Ennis Bridge to Ennis Lake
  — Closed to fishing from boats.

Marias River
- Open entire year including setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.

McDonalds Pond (Beaverhead County)
- Open July 15 through September 30, artificial lures only.
- Limit A: One (1) rainbow trout over 20 inches in length.

Middle Creek (Hyalite Creek), near Bozeman from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Midvale Creek from intake of Glacier Park Hotel Company water supply to park boundary
- Closed entire year.

Mill Creek near Sheridan
- Open entire year.

Miner Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Missouri River
- Downstream from Three Forks
  — Open entire year.
- Portions of Missouri River from Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry Reservoir are closed from March 1 through June 15 as posted.
- Toston Dam structure as posted
  — Closed entire year.
- Toston Dam to Canyon Ferry
  — Limit: Five (5) trout only one exceeding 18 inches. All brown trout between 18 and 24 inches must be released.
- Just below Canyon Ferry Dam as posted
  — Closed entire year; Hauser Lake limits apply in Canyon Ferry tailwater area.
- Waters from Hauser Dam downstream approximately 4.6 miles to American Bar Gulch (T12N, R3W, S11) are considered Missouri River for the purpose of fishing regulations.
- Hauser Dam downstream to Holter Dam
  — Catch-and-release only for brown trout.
- Holter Dam, abutment and spillway structures below the dam
  — Closed entire year.
- Holter Dam to Cascade Bridge
  — Limit A: May include only one (1) brown trout, minimum length 22 inches.
- Between bridges at Craig and Sheep Creek
  — Open to spear fishing for whitefish with rubber or spring-propelled spears by person swimming or submerged. Limit: Five (5) whitefish daily.

Musselshell River (downstream from confluence of North and South Forks)
- Open entire year.

Nelson Spring Creek
- Open entire year.
- Catch-and-release only, artificial lures only.

Newlan Creek Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

North Fork Big Hole River
- Open entire year for whitefish and brook trout.

North Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Fork Sun River
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only 1 may exceed 12 inches.

North Fork Teton River Drainage near Choteau, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

North Willow Creek, near Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Norwegian Creek
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

O'Brien Creek above Neihart public water intake
- Closed entire year.

Ostle Reservoir (Antelope Butte Lake, Teton County)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Otter Lake, Madison County
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Our Lake (See Hidden Lake, Teton County)

Pattengail Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Pintler Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Pishkun Reservoir
- Open entire year for fishing with up to two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open for snagging of salmon September 1 through December when 35 daily and 70 in possession shall be allowed.
- Spearing or gigging of northern pike and nongame fish through the ice only.

Plimpton Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Poindexter Slough
- Open entire year.
- From December 1 to third Saturday in May, artificial lures only, catch-and-release only.

Priest Butte Lake
- Open June 15 through September 15 and December 1 through February.

Quake Lake (Madison Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Rat Lake (T5S, R4E, S12, Gallatin River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.
- Unnamed tributary to the lake is closed entire year as posted.

Rattlesnake Creek, near Dillon from city water supply intake to a point 1,000 feet upstream as posted
- Closed entire year.

Red Canyon Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Red Lodge Creek downstream from Cooney Dam
- Open entire year.

Renshaw Lake
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, no size limit.

Rock Creek, tributary to Clarks Fork of the Yellowstone River
- Open entire year.

Ruby River downstream from Ruby Dam
- Open entire year.

Rumbaugh Creek (tributary to Hebgen Lake)
- Open June 15 through November 15.

Sawtooth Lake (T4S, R12W, S36, Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Golden trout limit one (1) fish.

Scott Lake (T5S, R11W, S30, Beaverhead River Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Shields River
- Extended whitefish season and catch-and release for trout open December 1 to the third Saturday in May with aquatic insects, maggots, and/or artificial lures only.

Silver Creek, Marysville
- Catch-and-release fishing from Gold Sil Mine as posted to Green Meadow Drive.
- Downstream from I-15 Bridge near Helena
  — Open third Saturday in May through Labor Day.

Smith Lake (Madison County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Smith River

Exceptions
- Downstream from confluence of North and South Forks
  — Open entire year.

... Special Limit Area
- From confluence of Rock Creek to Eden (Huntsberger) Bridge
  — Artificial lures only. Limit A: Three (3) fish under 13 inches and 1 fish per day over 22 inches.
- Children under the age of 12 may fish with bait.
- Aquatic insects, maggots and artificial lures may be used December 1 through third Saturday in May.

Floaters Notice—A mandatory floater fee and registration is in effect on the Smith River. A Smith River Floater's Guide is also available. Please call the Great Falls Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office at 454-3441.

South Fork Birch Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

South Fork Dupuyer Creek Drainage near Dupuyer, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

South Fork Madison River (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

South Fork Sun River
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, only 1 over 12 inches.

South Fork Two Medicine River Drainage, within National Forest
- Limit A: Three (3) trout, none may exceed 12 inches.

Sourdough Creek
- See Bozeman Creek.

South Willow Creek, near Harrison from Highway 287 bridge to Willow Creek Reservoir
- Open third Saturday in June through November 30.

Split Rock Lake
- Open entire year to fishing with up to two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line, except that six (6) lines with two (2) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Spearing or gigging for northern pike, and nongame fish through ice only.

Spring Meadow Lake
- Closed to motor propelled water craft.
- Open to fishing by hook and line only.
- Limit: Five (5) trout; One (1) bass.

Squaw Creek (Big Hole River Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Stillwater River (entire drainage - including tributaries)
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Two (2) trout, only 1 over 13 inches.

Sun River Drainage
- Downstream from Gibson Dam
  — Open entire year.
- North and South Forks of Sun River
  — Limit A: Three (3) trout, only 1 may exceed 12 inches.

Sunny Slope Canal downstream of Pishkun Reservoir
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Swamp Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Swazee Lake (Sun River Game Range)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.

Tahepia Lake (Wise River drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Teton River downstream from Highway 89 bridge
- Open entire year.

Toston Dam structure as posted
- Closed entire year.

Trapper Creek (tributary of Hebgen Lake)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Tunnel Lake (Teton County)
- Limit A may include only 1 grayling.

Twin Lakes (Upper Big Hole River drainage)
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout only two of which may be lake trout.

Vigilante Pond (near Virginia City)
- Children's fishing water, see page 5.

Wade Lake (Madison County)
- Open entire year. Spawning channel and channel inlet closed as posted.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Warm Springs Creek (Lewistown)
- Open entire year.
- Limit A: Ten (10) trout.

Warm Springs Creek (Upper Missouri River drainage)
- Open June 15 through September 30.

Watkins Creek (tributary to Hebgen Reservoir)
- Open June 15 through November 30.

Waukena Lake (Big Hole Drainage)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

West Fork Hyalite Creek
- Open third Saturday in July through November 30.

West Fork LaMarche Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

West Fork Rock Creek from Red Lodge water intake 1,000 feet upstream
- Closed entire year.

Willow Creek and tributaries from White Sulphur Springs public water intake to source
- Closed entire year.

Willow Creek Reservoir (Madison County)
- See Harrison Reservoir

Wise River (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Wood Lake (Sun River)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

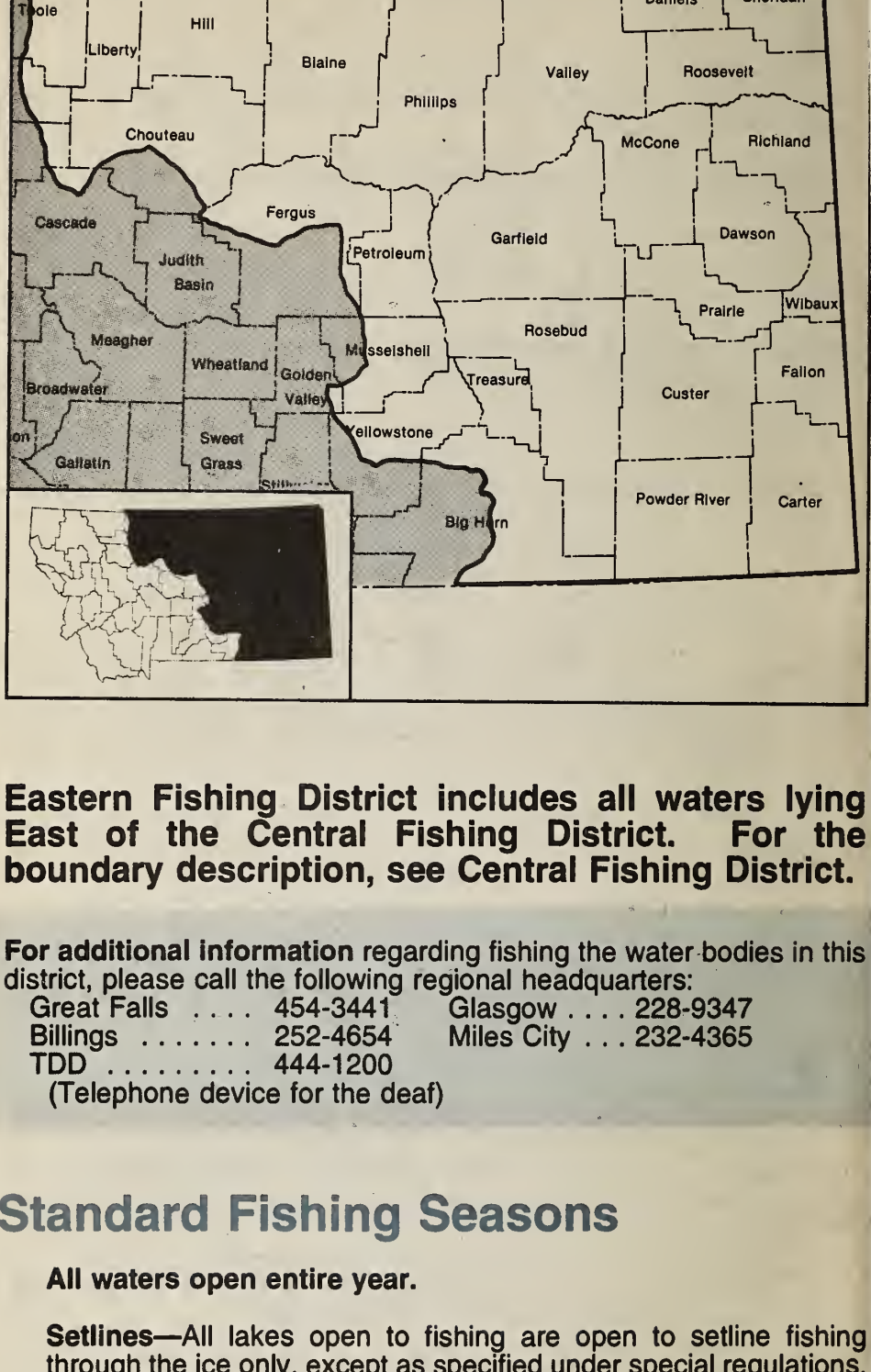
Wyman Creek (Big Hole Drainage)
- Open entire year for brook trout.

Yellowstone River

Seasons and Limits
- In the mainstem of the Yellowstone River from the Yellowstone National Park boundary to I-90 Bridge at Billings and in all rivers and streams of the Yellowstone River Drainage from Yellowstone National Park to Springdale (approximately 18 miles east of Livingston)
  — Catch-and-release only for cutthroat trout.
- Yellowstone National Park boundary to Emigrant Bridge and Pine Creek Bridge to I-90 Bridge at Billings:
  — Open entire year.
  — Limit A: Five (5) trout of which only one can exceed 18 inches.
- Mouth of Clarks Fork to I-90 Bridge at Billings
  — Open entire year to setline fishing with up to six (6) attended or unattended lines with up to six (6) hooks per line.
  — Live fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) allowed for bait in streams and ditches of the Yellowstone drainage, except for a section of the Bighorn River.

... **Special Limit Area**
- Emigrant Bridge to Pine Creek Bridge
  — Artificial lures only except that aquatic insects and maggots may be used as bait for whitefish between December 1 and the third Saturday in May.
  — Limit A: Brown and rainbow trout, 5 fish limit of which 4 may be under 13 inches and 1 fish over 22 inches.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT



Eastern Fishing District includes all waters lying East of the Central Fishing District. For the boundary description, see Central Fishing District.

For additional information regarding fishing the water bodies in this district, please call the following regional headquarters:

Great Falls	454-3441	Glasgow	228-9347
Billings	252-4654	Miles City . . .	232-4365
TDD	444-1200		

(Telephone device for the deaf)

Standard Fishing Seasons

All waters open entire year.

Setlines—All lakes open to fishing are open to setline fishing through the ice only, except as specified under special regulations. Setlines shall not be attached to jugs or other floating devices. Valid fishing license required.

All streams in Yellowstone Drainage open entire year to setlines.

Anglers may use up to six (6) setlines with up to six (6) hooks per line in those waters open to setline fishing except as specified under special regulations.

Unattended setlines must be clearly identified with owner's complete name and address.

Bow and Arrow—All waters open to angling are open to bow and arrow taking of paddlefish and nongame fish. Crossbows are illegal. Valid fishing license required.

Snagging—All waters open to angling are open to snagging of paddlefish. Snagging of chinook salmon is allowed on Fort Peck Reservoir from October 1 through November 30. All waters open to angling are open to snagging of nongame fish except the Missouri River and portions of the Yellowstone River, as specified under Special Regulations. Valid fishing license required.

Spearing—In all waters open to fishing non-game fish and burbot (ling) may be taken with rubber or spring-propelled spears by persons swimming or submerged. Valid fishing license required.

Spears or gigs may be used through the ice only for northern pike, walleye, sauger, burbot (ling) and nongame fish.

Standard Daily and Possession Limits

Each angler may take all of the following limits unless listed under special regulations. However, anglers may possess only the limit allowed for the water on which they are fishing.

Species	Limit (daily and possession) Rivers & Streams	Lakes	Restrictions
Limit A — in Any Combination: Grayling, Salmon, All trout except Lake trout	10	10	
Lake trout	3	3	
Burbot (ling)	10	10	
Catfish	20	20	
Sauger/Walleye	5	5	In any combination; Possession limit is 10 fish
Shovelnose Sturgeon	5	5	
Northern Pike	5	5	
Tiger Muskellunge	1	1	30 inch minimum size
Bass	5	5	
Paddlefish	One (1) fish season limit for Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required. Two (2) fish season limit for Missouri River upstream of Fort Peck Dam. Tags are required.		

There is no limit on whitefish, cisco, and nongame fish. The maximum weight sturgeon (genus Scaphirhynchus) which may be taken is 16 pounds. It is unlawful to take or possess a pallid sturgeon (Scaphirhyncus albus) of any size.

Hoop Nets

- The use of hoop nets is permitted in certain areas of the Eastern Fishing District.
- A permit is required.
- The use of hoop nets is limited to licensed resident anglers.
- Permit applications and rules are available in the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks offices in Glasgow and Miles City.

Bait (Live)

- Live fish may not be imported into or exported from the State of Montana except by permit issued by the Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks.
- Sculpins (genus Cottus) may be used live for bait in all waters of the Eastern District.
- Live nongame bait fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used in all streams and rivers of the Eastern District except:
  - — Milk River and its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam.
  - — Missouri River upstream from Morony Dam.
  - — Streams south of Highway 2 which originate in the Bears Paw Mountains, and Big Sandy Creek upstream from Highway 87 bridge.
- Live nongame fish (except carp, goldfish, sunfish, bullheads (catfish family), yellow perch, and rainbow smelt) may be used for bait in the following ponds, lakes, reservoirs and impoundments only:
  - — Bainville Railroad Ponds, Roosevelt County
  - — Baker Lake, Fallon County
  - — Box Elder Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Buxbaum West Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Castle Rock Lake, Rosebud County
  - — Cole Ponds, Phillips County
  - — Dredge Cut Trout Pond, Valley County
  - — Dry Fork Reservoir, Blaine County
  - — Engstrom Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Ester Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Flat Lake, McCone County
  - — Fort Peck Reservoir
  - — Frenchman Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Gartside Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Hollecker Lake, Dawson County
  - — Killenbeck Reservoir, Daniels County
  - — Kuester Reservoir, Richland County
  - — Lame Steer Reservoir, Wibaux County
  - — Lee (Sam) Reservoir, Dawson County
  - — Lindsay Reservoir, Dawson County
  - — Little Warm Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Lone Tree Creek Impoundments, Valley County
  - — Lyons Reservoir, Blaine County
  - — McChesney Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge, Sheridan County
  - — Milk River and its impoundments downstream of Fresno Dam
  - — Nelson Reservoir, Phillips County
  - — Petrolia Reservoir, Petroleum County
  - — Raymond Reservoir, Sheridan County
  - — Rolph Dam, Carter County
  - — Schlesinger Perch Pond, Rosebud County
  - — South Sandstone Reservoir, Fallon County
  - — Spotted Eagle Pond, Custer County
  - — Talcott Pond, Carter County
  - — Tiber Reservoir, (Lake Elwell)
  - — Tongue River Reservoir, Big Horn County
  - — Whiteside Reservoir, Garfield County
  - — Whitetail Reservoir, Daniels County
  - — Witkowski Reservoir, Wibaux County

Boat and Motor Restrictions

The use of boats and motors may be restricted on some of the waters within this fishing district. Please refer to the boat and motor restrictions described on page 37. A complete description of all the boat and motor restrictions can be obtained by contacting a license agent or any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

EASTERN FISHING DISTRICT SPECIAL REGULATIONS

Check the district special regulations listed below for the body of water you intend to fish. If the body of water is not found in the listing of special regulations, the standard regulations, seasons, and daily/possession limits apply.

Bear Paw Lake (Hill County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout

Beaver Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Beaver Creek in Valley and Phillips County
- Open entire year to setlines.

Big Muddy Creek
- Open entire year to setlines.

Big Sandy Creek
- Upstream from Highway 87 bridge (Bears Paw Mountains)
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Clear Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  - — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Cow Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Dredge Cut Trout Pond
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except that six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks may be used to fish through ice.

Eagle Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Ester Reservoir (Phillips County)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Faber Reservoir (Blaine County)
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Fort Peck Dredge Cut Ponds
- See Missouri River.

Fort Peck Reservoir (Fort Peck Dam to Beauchamp Creek and CMR Trail 837)
- Open entire year for all species (except pallid sturgeon) to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line, except up to six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Limit: Ten (10) bass daily and in possession.

Frenchman Creek (excluding Frenchman Reservoir)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Fresno Reservoir (Hill County)
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line, except up to six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- No limit on northern pike.

Giant Springs (Great Falls) that portion enclosed by concrete walks and masonry work.
- Closed entire year.

Lake Elwell
- See Tiber Reservoir.

Little Box Elder Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
  - — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Lone Tree Creek and impoundments (Valley County)
- Open entire year to setlines.

Marias River
- Open entire year to setlines from I-15 bridge to Tiber Reservoir and from Circle Bridge (Meisner's) to confluence with Missouri River.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout, of which only one may exceed 18 inches.
- Whitefish: limit 35 fish.

Medicine Lake National Wildlife Refuge (Sheridan County)
- All lakes open to setlines.
- Medicine Lake
  — Open November 15 through September 15.
- Gaffney Lake and Lake 10.
  — Open August 15 through March 31.
- Lake 12
  — Open November 15 through March 31.

Milk River
- And its tributaries upstream from Fresno Dam
  — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
- Upstream from Fresno Reservoir (above Goldstone Bridge)
  — Open entire year to setlines.
- And its impoundments downstream from Fresno Dam
  — Open entire year to setlines.

Missouri River
- Upstream from Morony Dam
  — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.
- Immediately downstream from Morony Dam as posted
  — Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Morony Dam (excluding river and dredge cuts between Fort Peck Dam and mouth of Milk River)
  — Open entire year to setlines.
- From Fort Peck Dam to mouth of Milk River (including Dredge Cut Ponds)
  — Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line except up to six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
  — Limit A: Not to include more than two (2) rainbow trout.
- Downstream from outlet tunnels of Fort Peck Dam as posted
  — Closed entire year.
- Downstream from Fort Peck Dam near Duck Island as posted
  — Closed March 1 through July 31 to fishing and wading.
- Morony Dam downstream to North Dakota border
  —It is illegal to snag for nongame fish.
- **Paddlefish Regulations — Missouri River (upstream of Fort Peck Dam)**
  — All paddlefish anglers, regardless of age, must purchase and have in their possession paddlefish tags in addition to other licenses that may be required.
  — Limit: two fish per season.
  — Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful to cast for and/or hook a paddlefish for another person.
  — Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
  — Any tag which has been altered or modified shall be void.
  — It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or parts thereof. Anglers must tag paddlefish with their own tag.
  — Paddlefish anglers must either tag or release a paddlefish immediately when taken.
  — If a fish is cut up, the angler must keep that portion of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) necessary to maintain the tag sealed to the fish.
  — It is illegal to snag for nongame fish from the Morony Dam downstream to the North Dakota border.
- **Paddlefish Regulations — Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam)**
  — Reglations for this body of water are those listed under paddlefish regulations. See Yellowstone River and Missouri River downstream of Fort Peck Dam, page 35.

Musselshell River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Nelson Reservoir (Phillips County)
- Open entire year for up to two (2) setlines with no more than two (2) hooks per line, except that up to six (6) setlines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Limit: No number limit on northern pike.

Peoples Creek
- South of Highway 2 (Bears Paw Mountains)
  — Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
  — Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Poplar River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Powder River and tributaries
- Open entire year to bow and arrow taking of catfish. Crossbows are illegal.

Redwater River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Ross Reservoir (Blaine County)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Limit A: Five (5) trout.

Rush Hall Pond (Fallon County)
- Open February 1 through October 15.

Snake Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Sucker Creek (Bears Paw Mountains)
- Open third Saturday in May through November 30.
- Closed to use of live fish for bait except sculpins.

Teton River
- Open entire year to setlines.

Tiber Reservoir (Lake Elwell)
- Open entire year to fishing with two (2) lines with two (2) hooks per line except that up to six (6) lines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice.
- Limit: Ten (10) northern pike daily and in possession.

Tongue River Reservoir
- Open entire year for all species to persons swimming or submerged using rubber or spring-propelled spears.
- Up to six (6) lines with six (6) hooks per line may be used to fish through ice but the angler must be in the vicinity and within visual contact of the line(s) or rod(s) at all times.

Wind Creek (Blaine County) from Clear Creek road crossing to its sources, excluding Ross Reservoir
- Closed entire year.

Yellowstone River
- Downstream from mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  — Open May 1 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited.
- From mouth of Bighorn River to mouth of Cottonwood Creek (approximately 4 miles downstream of Intake Diversion Dam)
  — Open May 15 through June 30 to snagging of paddlefish or as posted. Snagging of nongame fish prohibited.
- From Intake Diversion to about 1/4 mile downstream as posted
  — Closed May 15 through June 30 to fishing or snagging from boats or as posted.

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Yellowstone River, Continued...

- **Paddlefish Regulations — Yellowstone River and Missouri River (downstream of Fort Peck Dam)**
  - — All paddlefish anglers regardless of age, must purchase and have in their possession paddlefish tags in addition to other licenses that may be required.
  - — Limit: one fish per season.
  - — Each paddlefish angler must cast for and hook his or her own fish. It is unlawful to cast for and/or hook a paddlefish for another person.
  - — Any paddlefish tag that is locked shut prior to attachment to a fish shall be void.
  - — Any tag which has been altered or modified shall be void.
  - — It is unlawful to possess an untagged paddlefish or parts thereof. Anglers must tag paddlefish with their own tag.
  - — For the Yellowstone River only — it is unlawful to release a paddlefish. Each paddlefish must be immediately tagged when caught.
  - — If a fish is cut up, the angler must keep that portion of the back and dorsal fin (back fin) necessary to maintain the tag sealed to the fish.

Recreational Use of State Land

A State Lands Recreational Use License, which is available from Fish, Wildlife & Parks license agents, is required to conduct most recreational activities (including hunting and fishing) on state lands. Pamphlets that provide information regarding the rules, regulations and restrictions governing these recreational activities on state lands are available from Fish, Wildlife & Parks offices, Fish, Wildlife & Parks license agents and offices of the Department of State Lands.

Montana Stream Access Law

Under the Montana Stream Access Law, rivers and streams capable of recreational use may be so used by the public up to the ordinary high water marks. Although Montana law gives recreationists the right to pursue water-based recreational activities within the high water marks of rivers and streams, it does not give recreationists the right to enter posted lands bordering those streams or to cross private lands to gain access to streams.

The success or failure of the law hinges on the behavior of landowners and recreationists. We emphasize the need for cooperation and mutual respect.

Recreationists are urged to obtain more detailed information from any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Montana Trespass Law

Montana's trespass law states that a member of the public has the privilege to enter or remain on private land by the explicit permission of the landowner or his agent, or by the failure of the landowner to post notice denying entry onto the land.

It is the responsibility of the recreationist to determine whether private lands are posted. If lands are posted, it is the recreationist's responsibility to obtain permission from landowners before recreating on these lands. Recreationists are urged to obtain more detailed information from any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.

Indian Reservations

- Certain waters on Indian Reservations may have special rules. Tribal permits may be required. Specific information should be obtained from reservation headquarters.
- The State of Montana and Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes have entered into a cooperative agreement on the Flathead Reservation. Please check for fishing regulations specific to the Flathead Reservation. For information call the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks at 752-5501 or the Tribes at 675-2700.

National Parks

Certain waters on National Parks may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the park.

Wildlife Refuges

Certain waters on Wildlife Refuges may have special rules. Specific information may be obtained from the headquarters of the refuge involved.

Ice Fishing

- **Number of Rods/Lines**
  — Two rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on all lakes, reservoirs, or ponds in the Western and Central Districts and six rods and/or lines may be used to fish through ice on lakes, reservoirs, and ponds in the Eastern District. See Special Regulations for exceptions.
- **Size of Hole**
  — The maximum size hole that may be cut for ice fishing is 144 square inches.
  — There is no limit on the size of hole used for fishing with a spear or gig.
- **Shelters**
  — The following special regulations apply to ice fishing shelters on the following waters:
    - Bearpaw Lake
    - Beaver Creek Reservoir
    - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
    - Deadmans Basin Reservoir
    - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
    - Georgetown Lake
    - Hauser Lake
    - Helena Valley Reservoir
    - Lake Frances
    - Lake Helena

  — **Shelter definition:** Any hut or shelter constructed of any material except ice or snow.
  — **Shelter identification:** Each shelter must be marked with the owner's name, address, and/or phone number, painted or permanently affixed to the shelter in legible letters not less than two (2) inches in height, of contrasting color to the background, and plainly visible at a distance of 100 feet.
  — **Inspection:** Each shelter of closed type construction shall have a door readily opened from the outside for inspection by an officer when the shelter is occupied. The door shall not be latched from the inside.
  — **Use:** It is prohibited for any person to use, fish from or occupy an ice fishing shelter if the shelter does not conform to the rules.
- **Shelter removal**
  — Daily removal is required on the following waters:
    - Browns Lake (near Ovando)
    - Georgetown Lake
    - Deadmans Basin
    - Echo Lake (near Anaconda)
    - Fitzpatrick Lake
    - Helena Valley Reservoir

  — On Hauser Lake and Lake Helena ice fishing shelters may not be set on the ice until after sunrise and must be removed from the area before sunset each day.

Continued on page 37...

Ice Fishing, Continued...

— Removal after season: The owner of an ice fishing shelter shall remove the shelter from the area and from public property before it becomes irretrievable over the ice.

— **Waste and rubbish disposal:** It is the responsibility of the owner and users of ice fishing shelters to keep the immediate area around their shelter free from rubbish and trash. Waste material must be removed when the angler leaves for the day.

Crayfish

- Crayfish may be taken for personal use with a net or screen not to exceed four (4) feet in length or width, by hook and line, or in traps not exceeding 18 inches in length and 10 inches in width or diameter. A valid fishing license is required.
- The collection of crayfish for sale or commercial distribution requires a permit. Contact a Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office for information.

Commercial Whitefish Fishing

- A permit is required to sell whitefish. Contact Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks regional office for a permit and a list of waters open to commercial harvest of whitefish.

Mussels

In accordance with ARM Sec. 12.5.301 it is unlawful to take or possess freshwater mussels or their shells.

Check Stations

- Anglers and hunters are required to stop as directed at all designated check stations on their way to and from fishing and hunting areas, even if there are no fish or game to be checked.

Boat and Motor Restrictions

- The use of boats is prohibited or restricted on many waters. A copy of the **Boating Laws and Rules** is available from any Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks office.
- Notice: When using any form of a raft, boat, or sailboat on Montana's waters, a personal flotation device (PFD) must be made available for all persons on board. The PFD must be the appropriate size, be in good working order and readily available to each person, and be U.S. Coast Guard approved. Boats 16 feet and longer must have an additional throwable Type IV PFD on board.
- All youth under the age of 12 must wear (securely fastened to their body) a PFD at all times when in a boat that is less than 26 feet and in motion.
- The following is a partial list of rules pertaining to boating and water safety; other waters may be closed as posted.

It is Unlawful

- To operate upon Montana waters:
  — All motorboats (gas or electric) and sailboats 12 feet long and longer must be properly licensed and numbered with registration carried on board.
  — All boats must carry equipment as required by the **Montana Boating Laws and Rules**.

Continued on page 38...

It Is Unlawful, Continued...

— Youth 12 years of age and under may not operate a motorboat with a motor greate than 10 horsepowe unless an adult is on board.

— Unless an adult is on board, youth 13 and 14 years of age must possess a Monana motorboat operator's certificate or proof of completing an approved course in order to operate a motorboat with a motor greater than 10 horsepower.

Boating Closures

- **12.6.801** (1) The following waters/areas will be either closed as posted or marked by barrel booms to the use of all boats or other water craft except in case of rescue craft or plant maintenance work:
  - (a) area immediately above and below Canyon Ferry Dam in Lewis and Clark County;
  - (b) area immediately above Kerr Dam in Lake County;
  - (c) a portion of Brown's Lake near Ovando, Powell County, during the time period beginning April 1 and ending July 15.

- **All rivers and streams in the following counties east of the Continental Divide are closed toe the use of all boats propelled by machinery of over 10 horsepower, except for official use:**

County	Exception
Beaverhead	
Broadwater	Missouri downriver from the Broadwater-Gallatin County line.
Gallatin	Missouri downriver from Headwaters State Park.
Jefferson	
Madison	
Park	Yellowstone downriver from Highway 89 Bridge, near mouth of Shields River
Silver Bow	

- **The following reservoirs and lakes of the state are closed to the use of all boats propelled by machinery over 10 horsepower, except for official use:**

Beaver Creek Reservoir	Hill County
Carpenter (Tetrault) Lake	Lincoln County
South Sandstone Reservoir	Fallon County

- **The following waters are limited to manually-operated boats and boats powered by electric motors, except for official use:**

Castle Rock Reservoir	Rosebud County
Crystal Lake	Fergus County
Gartside Reservoir	Richland County
Helena Valley Regulating Reservoir	Lewis & Clark County
Lake Elmo	Yellowstone County

- **The following waters of the state are closed to all motor-propelled watercraft, except for official use:**

Western Fishing District:

Bearmouth rest area pond	Granite County
Frenchtown Pond	Missoula County
Harpers Lake	Missoula County
Twin Lakes	Ravalli County

Central Fishing District:

Arapooish access area	Big Horn County
Big Hole River	Silver Bow, Madison, Deer Lodge, Beaverhead counties

Continued on page 39...

Central Fishing District, Continued...

Bighorn River	That portion of the Bighorn River from Afterbay Dam to the Big Horn Access area, Big Horn County
Bozeman Ponds	Gallatin County
Forest Lake	Meagher County
Park Lake	Lewis & Clark County
Missouri River	That portion of the Missouri River from the Burlington Northern Railway Bridge No. 119.4 at Broadwater Bay in Great Falls to Black Eagle and that portion of the Missouri River from the Warden Bridge on 10th Avenue South in Great Falls to the floater take-out facility constructed near Oddfellows Park at Broadwater Bay as posted, Cascade County
Smith River	Cascade County
Spring Meadow Lake	Lewis & Clark County

Eastern Fishing District:

Bearpaw Lake	Hill County

Numbered Tag

- If you catch a tagged fish, please advise the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks of the:
  - — Tag number and color
  - — Date fish was caught
  - — Species of fish
  - — Length and weight (close as possible)
  - — Location of catch (river - lake and specific area in miles from or to the nearest landmark)
  - — Name and address of angler

Releasing Fish

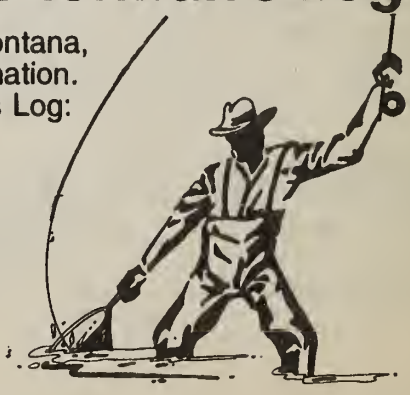
To ensure a released fish has the best chance for survival:

- Play the fish as rapidly as possible — do not play it to total exhaustion.
- Keep the fish in water as much as possible when handling and removing a hook.
- Remove the hook gently — do not squeeze the fish or put fingers in its gills.
- If deeply hooked, cut the line. Do not yank the hook out. Most fish survive with hooks left in them.
- Release the fish only after its equilibrium is maintained. If necessary, gently hold the fish upright facing upstream and move it slowly back and forth.
- Release the fish in quiet water close to the area where it was hooked.

Fisherman's Log

If you fish regularly in Montana, help gather fishing information. Write for the Fisherman's Log:

Department of Fish,
Wildlife & Parks
F,W&P Building
MSU Campus
Bozeman, MT 59715-0323



HELP PROTECT THE PALLID STURGEON!

The **Pallid Sturgeon** is a fish of special concern in Montana and it is listed as an Endangered Species by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Pallids are a bottom-dwelling fish of the Missouri and Yellowstone rivers, preferring strong currents flowing over a sandy or gravelly river bottom.

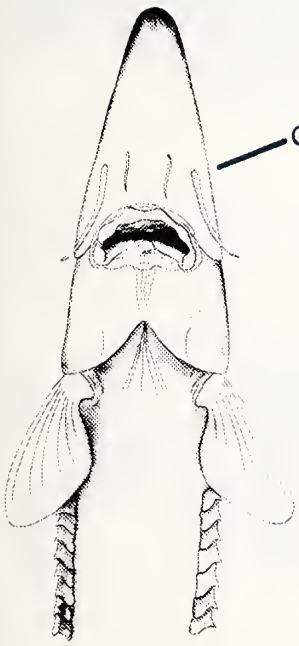
Montana law requires:

— All pallid sturgeon must be released immediately.
— All sturgeon heavier than 16 pounds must be released immediately.

What can you do to help conserve the Pallid Sturgeon?

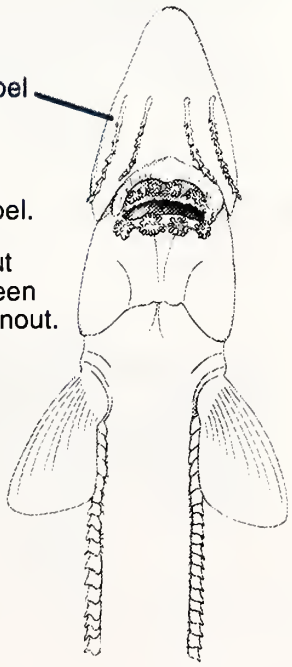
1. Learn to distinguish the **Pallid** from the Shovelnose Sturgeon, a smaller and more common species (see diagrams below). Since the sturgeon are hard to identify, we recommend that all sturgeon be released if you are unsure of the species.
2. Immediately and safely release the **Pallid Sturgeon.**
3. Contact the Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks with any information on the location and size of **Pallid Sturgeon.**

Pallid Sturgeon



1. Outer barbel 2 or more times the length of inner barbel. (Be alert for broken barbels)
2. Barbels attached close to mouth, about 1/3 the distance between mouth and tip of snout.

Shovelnose Sturgeon

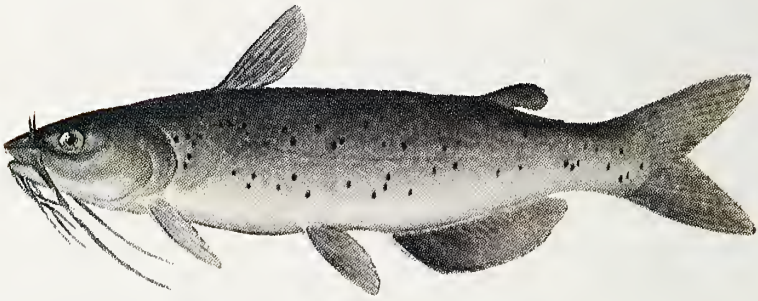


1. Outer barbel barely longer than inner barbel.
2. Barbels attached about 1/2 the distance between the mouth and tip of snout.

Warm Water Fish

Northern Pike

Channel Catfish



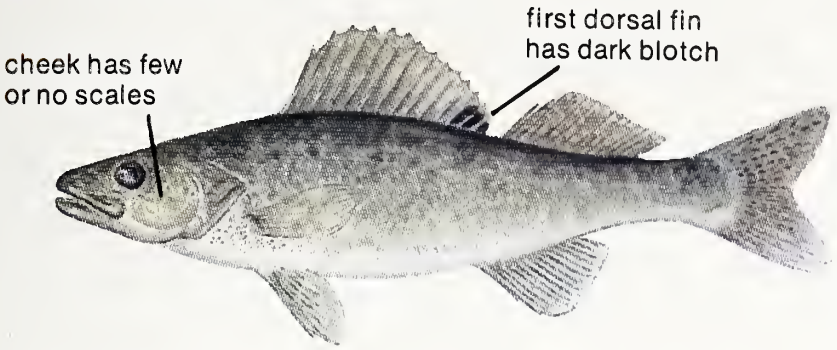
Burbot

Goldeye

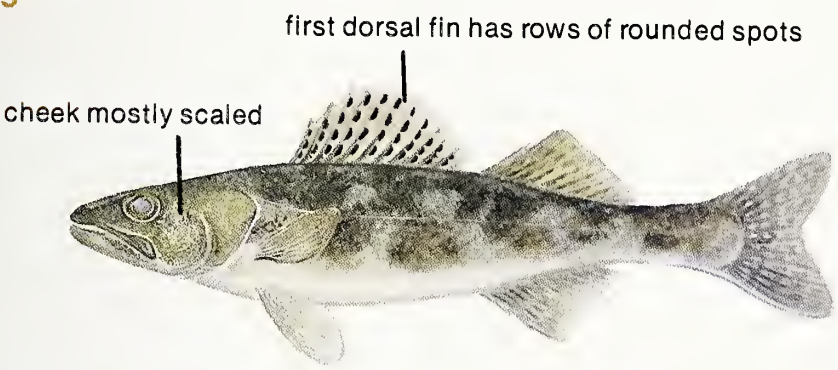
Paddlefish

Warm Water Fish

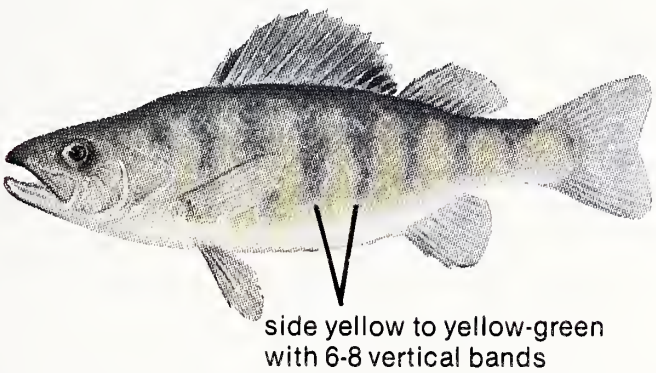
Walleye



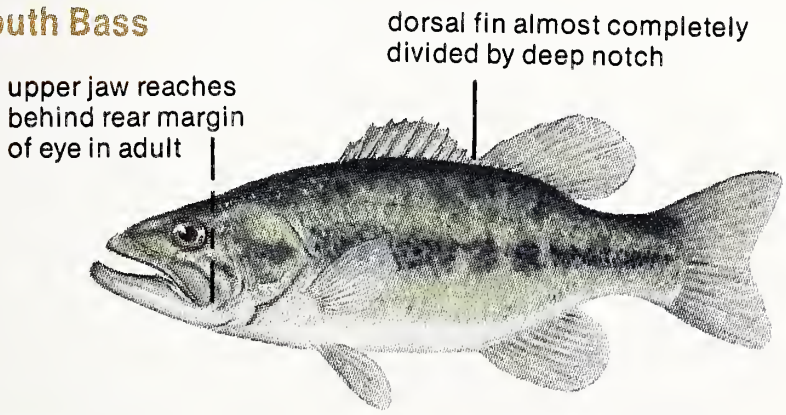
Sauger



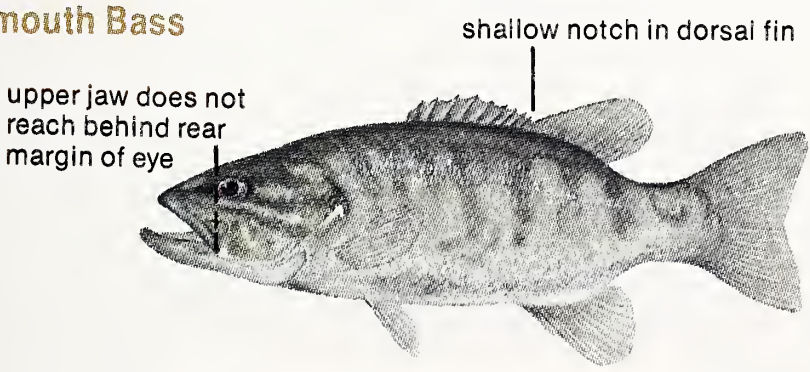
Yellow Perch



Largemouth Bass



Smallmouth Bass



Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife & Parks

1420 East Sixth Avenue, Helena, Montana 59620

Montana State Library
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